

CONFIDENTIAL

14 June 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR:

[redacted]
Assistant Presidential
Briefing Coordinator

SUBJECT

:

[redacted]
Soviet-Iraqi Arms Sales
and the DCI Briefing Statement
on Reduced Demand for Soviet
Arms

1. As noted in 12 June DCI briefing paper, because of the draw down of earlier orders for Soviet equipment, new Iraqi orders of Soviet arms are expected this year. These will complement and fill gaps in Baghdad's Soviet-supplied inventories. The pending orders, [redacted] could be in the billion dollar range (less than a third of the orders placed or presently being negotiated with Western suppliers). [redacted]

2. The delaying tactics [redacted] frequently are used by the USSR as a political weapon against arms clients. While these annoying actions could be important factors in LDC determinations to reduce arms dependence on the Soviet Union, we do not attribute the sales decline in 1978-79 to a Soviet withholding of arms. The Iraqis will undoubtedly get the arms they want. The problem for Soviet sales appears to be reduced LDC demand. [redacted]

[redacted]
Chief
Trade and Aid Branch
Office of Economic Research

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REMARKS

In reply to the DCI Question

14 June.

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